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FOR FIFTEEN YEARS, THE LESBIAN AND GAY WEEKLY

## Congress guts AIDS education

*Three days after over half a million queers marched on Washington, Congress kicked the gay community in the teeth by denying funding for explicitly sexual AIDS educational materials.*

By Chris Bull

WASHINGTON, DC — In what AIDS educators call a "shocking setback for AIDS education," the U.S. Congress voted overwhelmingly to ban the use of federal funds for educational projects or materials that "promote or encourage, directly or indirectly, homosexual sexual activity."

The ban was passed by the Senate in the form of an amendment Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) attached to the \$126 billion Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill. The amendment passed 94-2 on Oct. 14. Only Sens. Lowell Weicker (R-CT) and Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY) voted against the amendment.

The House passed an identical amendment, sponsored by Rep. Robert Dannemeyer (R-CA), 368-47. The two versions of the appropriations bills will now be considered by a joint House and Senate committee, where activists hope the language of the amendment will be weakened. Legislators and AIDS activists expressed concern that the amendment was vague and could be interpreted to ban even the Surgeon General's Report on AIDS.

In its present form, the amendment would force federally-funded AIDS educators to stress the virtue of marriage, and the dangers of promiscuity and drug use. It also bans materials that "promote homosexuality."

Helms told the Senate he was outraged by a series of safe sex comics, published by Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) in New York City, although he admitted the comics were funded privately. Helms brandished one of the graphically explicit comic books on the Senate floor and said, "I will not consume

the Senate's time reading the details of this revolting project. But, Mr. President, you know those little bags they have on airlines when it gets bumpy, if I were to read the sickening details to you...you would need one.... We have got to call a spade a spade and a perverted human being a perverted human being, not in anger, but in realism." Helms went on to blame the spread of AIDS on homosexual intercourse.

Lori Behrman, spokesperson for GMHC, told *GCN* the Helms amendment endangers the AIDS education work which has already significantly reduced the incidence of new HIV infection in the gay community. She said much AIDS education work consists of experimenting with direct interventions in bars and bathhouses and research into what literature is most effective in changing high-risk behaviors. She said the pocket-sized comic books are effective because they are explicit and entertaining, and they use language accessible to people who are most likely to engage in high-risk sexual activity.

GMHC receives about \$700,000 in grants each year from the Federal Centers for Disease Control for AIDS education and information. Behrman said that although most explicit safe sex information is privately funded, the Helms amendment jeopardizes much of the research that goes into educational strategies. She added that the city and state have so far continued to support the work of GMHC.

"If it had not been the comics it would have been something else," said Behrman.

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GMHC comics like this fueled Jesse Helms' anti-gay, anti-sex funding amendment.

## Leather gets together

Billing between the huge columns of the Dept. of Commerce building was a large black sign with intertwined grey chains. It read: S/M LEATHER CONFERENCE. Men and women in various stages of leather dress were relaxing on the steps.

Story page 3.

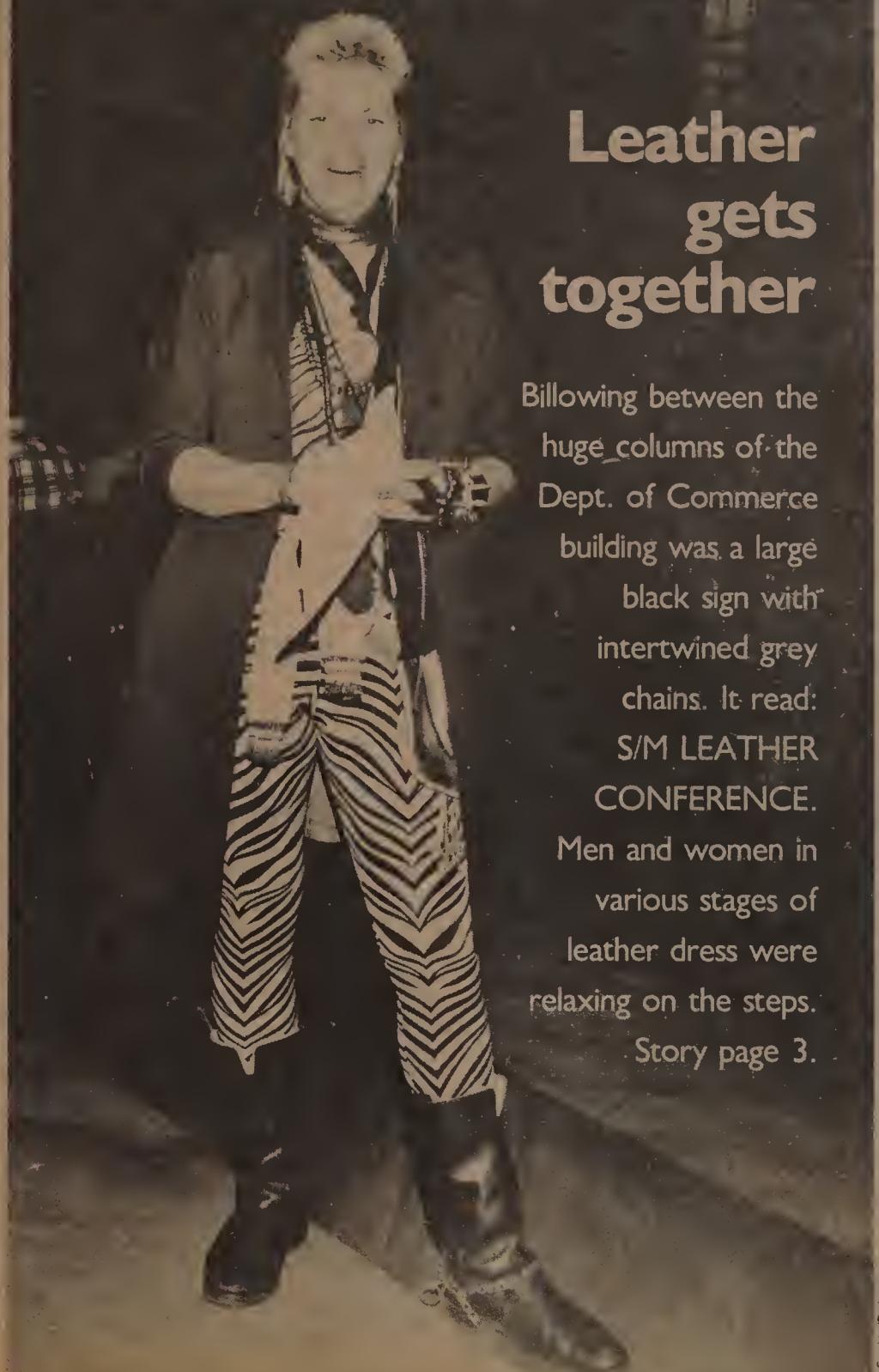


Photo Graphics/Darlene

## MLN adopts pro-les/gay resolutions

*At its national convention the Puerto Rican independence organization comes out for lesbian and gay liberation*

By Bob Lederer

CHICAGO — A Puerto Rican independence group based in the U.S. has become the first Latin American liberation organization to publicly support the fight against gay oppression. At its First Congress here on July 3-5, the Puerto Rican National Liberation Movement, known by its Spanish initials MLN, also adopted progressive resolutions on AIDS, sexism, reproductive choice, and racism in Puerto Rico. These unprecedented stands will likely prove controversial among the people of this Catholic nation, and within the independence movement.

The Congress marked ten years of existence for the MLN, which is organized in major U.S. cities where over half the Puerto Rican population now lives, after high unemployment and political repression forced them to leave their U.S.-occupied island. The MLN resolved to continue its public support for all means of obtaining independence for their colonized nation, including armed attacks on governmental, corporate and military facilities by both mainland U.S. and island-based guerrilla groups. The organization reaffirmed its long-standing commitment to organize grass-roots support for independence activists and guerrilla fighters imprisoned by the U.S. government.

Another cornerstone of MLN policy ratified by the Congress was the principle of non-collaboration with federal grand jury investigations of above-ground and clandestine Puerto Rican liberation groups. These probes, considered by many as FBI intelligence-gathering operations, have frequently attempted to force pro-independence activists to become informers. Since 1977, several MLN leaders, after refusing court orders to testify, have been imprisoned on "contempt" charges (some of them twice) for up to two years.

At the Congress, the MLN also reiterated

its call for a boycott of U.S.-run elections in Puerto Rico which it considers a colonial imposition. In addition, the organization pledged to heighten efforts to win international support for Puerto Rico's independence, while supporting movements of other people and nations for freedom from U.S. domination.

The MLN's newly-adopted constitution "forbids racism, sexism and homophobia in all their forms." Another provision rejects "the imposition of conditions on social relations among the people: be they sexual preferences, marriage, temporary relations among or between the sexes or of any other mode." In separate resolutions on "revolutionary morals," in which the organization notes it is "the first to make sexuality part of a political program," the MLN declares, "We must develop a positive vision of sexuality in all of its aspects, and as an organization, guarantee that each individual feels likewise."

In another resolution, the MLN criticizes the perception of AIDS as a "gay" disease and says AIDS is "being used as a new justification for the oppression of homosexuality." The statement adds, "AIDS is attacking the Puerto Rican nation in disproportionately high numbers and we must not let prejudice stand in the way of seeking a solution to the problem or supporting our brothers and sisters who are suffering from it." The resolution accuses the U.S. government of using AIDS "as a way to combat sexual liberation and human liberation gains over the last two decades.... It is up to all of us to expose this policy, separate the facts from the lies, and oppose a return to bourgeois morality and repression."

In its section on women, the MLN resolves to "advance the joint struggle of women and men against submission and 'macho' tendencies manifested by members

Continued on page 3

## Quote of the week

*"There is a compelling argument against extending civil-rights protection to sexual orientation on the basis that it would be homosexual activity, not homosexual persons that would be protected by such laws. The distinction is a difficult one to articulate, I grant you, but it is real nonetheless. It has to do with whether society has the right to make judgments about which behavior it approves or disapproves, not whether or not we have the right to approve or disapprove of certain kinds of people."*

*We make those judgments about behavior all the time in our laws. If those who marched on the capital last weekend have their way, however, we won't be able to make such judgments any longer."*

—Linda Chavez, former staff director of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights under the Reagan administration who ran an openly-homophobic campaign for Senate against Barbara Mikulski in Maryland. The quote appeared in an editorial by the Chicago *Sun-Times*.

## Pipe dem pecs

NEW YORK — *The Body Building Woman* (TBW) is a new newsletter serving as an alternative to the variety of publications that cover this sport. Lisa Rogak, editor, initiated the newsletter because of her dissatisfaction with the other magazines in



which "you're going to get a certain amount of information on training routines, some cheesecake-style nonmuscular photos... and an outdated quote that compares women body builders to trussed up chickens," said Rogak.

TBW hopes to discuss topics that don't get discussed in other magazines and to "inject some intelligence into a sport that is widely regarded as having none," she added. The newsletter will be published bimonthly and a year's subscription is \$14.97. To subscribe, write to: *Body Building Woman*, Symmetry Publishing, Inc., 701 Seventh Ave., Suite 9W21, New York, NY 10036.

□ Joan Doyle

## NAMBLA meeting nixed

BALTIMORE, MD — The Baltimore Gay and Lesbian Community Center, in the wake of right-wing protests, bomb threats, and criticism from its constituents, withdrew the permission it had given the North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) to hold a conference there.

NAMBLA was scheduled to hold its annual membership at the Community Center on Oct. 9 and 10. But when news of the meeting was leaked to the straight press a right-wing radio station began airing inflammatory messages urging its listeners to organize to have the event stopped. According to NAMBLA, about 500 people gathered at a Baltimore fundamentalist church to oppose the conference.

NAMBLA spokesperson Bill Andriette criticized the media and the Center for the actions. "We are not surprised that there is a Baltimore fringe of homophobes who have

mobilized to oppose a quiet political gathering of persons whose views they dislike," said Andriette, "but it is disturbing that the Gay and Lesbian Community Center should capitulate in the face of such an attack."

Jon DeHart, Executive Director of the Community Center, said the decision to deny the space was based on pressure from within the gay and lesbian community in Baltimore, not the press. "We did not want to deny the rights of anyone," said DeHart, "but we had to accede to the wishes of our community. About 80 percent of those who called said they felt it was wrong for the Center to be associated with the NAMBLA event," he added. DeHart said he thought the bomb threats were generated by the radio station publicity and that he did not take them seriously.

NAMBLA held the conference at another site.

□ Jennie McKnight

## Her holiness?

VATICAN CITY — Roman Catholic Church authorities seem to be agonizing about whether to "de-ordain" an Italian priest who has had a sex change. The priest, known only as "Father Paolo," retired from the priesthood after 25 years of service in order to undergo the transformation, according to the Chicago *Tribune*.

Catholic theologians and canon experts are grappling with conflicting church doctrine. On one hand, church teaching clearly indicates once a priest is ordained, he remains a priest forever. On the other, the church explicitly denies women priestly positions.

Although the Vatican is not expected to make public its decision on the case, Cardinal Castillo Lara, a canon law expert, has said Father Paolo is no longer a priest. "If this person was a woman only sociologically—in other words, if he dressed as a woman, but biologically remained a man—in this case he would remain a priest—a priest with a serious pathological problem," said Lara.

But since Father Paolo underwent surgical and physiological transformation, according to Lara, the sacrament of ordination is invalidated. "Ordination presupposes that a valid, capable subject be a man. If the priest became, hypothetically, some other being, he wouldn't be a priest. Even if he became an angel. Angels cannot be priests," said Lara in an interview with a Rome daily newspaper, *La Repubblica*.

The controversy came to light when a story about the cleric's life appeared in another Italian newspaper, *La Prensa*, published in Turin. The article said Father Paolo claimed never to have violated his vows of chastity, but that he often wore women's clothing under his clerical vestments. "I asked for help from the Church and from doctors," the priest said. "They advised me to do penance and to take tranquilizers."

The priest's legal status in Italy has been changed from that of a man to a woman, although her canonical status remains unclear.

"I would like to be a woman, who I always knew I was and now finally am, and a priest, which I was and still am," she said. "If someone was dying and asked me for the extreme unction (a Catholic sacrament now known as anointing the sick), I would do it," she added.

□ Jennie McKnight

## Police probe falters

BOSTON — A grand jury investigation of police extortion of Boston bars has temporarily come to a screeching halt. The grand jury investigation, which implicated more than 200 local bars and restaurants and led to the subpoena of 18 gay bars, stemmed from a five-year probe by the FBI and the Justice Department. (See GCN, Vol. 13, No. 17)

According to an October 16 Boston *Herald* report, the grand jury's 18-month appointment ran out in April of last year and was not renewed. Renewal of a grand jury is customarily a routine action; failure to renew this grand jury is being characterized as a "massive blunder."

Because of this administrative omission the grand jury was dismissed earlier this month. As a result, an alleged Mafia associate who was jailed for refusing to testify before the grand jury was dismissed.

In addition, information compiled by the grand jury since April cannot be used as evidence against the police force.

The New England Organized Crime Strike Task Force will attempt to rebuild its case against more than sixty police officers before a new grand jury.

□ Kim Westheimer

## Subway assailant attacked

NEW YORK—When a woman riding the subway was harassed by a male fellow rider, she dragged him off the train and began to beat him. According to the New York *Times*, Albert W. O'Leary of the transit police said the man, Robert Davidson, was so overwhelmed that he apologized to the woman. The incident occurred Oct. 16 at 8:40 am on a crowded subway car.

O'Leary said that the woman was standing near the doors when the man began fondling her. When she tried to move away other passengers accused her of crowding them. After she protested loudly the other passengers gave her some room, at which point she began slapping the man and punching him around the head and shoulders. When the doors opened she "grabbed him by the collar and yanked him off the train onto the platform. She knocked him down and began slamming his head against the platform." At this point Davidson apologized and called for the transit police.

O'Leary said he "could not account for the woman's ability to overpower the man," but did say that she was "incensed" about the incident. Both Davidson and the woman have filed complaints. Davidson was arrested on a charge of third-degree sexual assault, and the woman was issued a criminal summons for harassment.

□ Joan Doyle

## New Zealand won't hold conference

WELLINGTON, New Zealand—Next year's International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) conference will not be held in New Zealand as long as the Gay Association of South Africa (GASA) is a member of ILGA.

At the annual ILGA conference held in Cologne this past summer, the Gay Task Force of New Zealand (GTF) was invited to host the 1988 gathering. GTF coordinators say they were never consulted before the decision, however, and that "any attempt to hold such a conference would be a grave insult to the *tangata whenua* (the people of the land/the Maori people) [and] profoundly injurious to the lesbian and gay movement."

GASA has come under criticism from lesbian and gay groups worldwide for its refusal to demand an end to South Africa's apartheid system, and for its failure to support Black gay South African activist Simon Nkoli, who has been imprisoned by the South African government and is being tried for treason.

□ Jennie McKnight

## Post-March boos

CRUISING ALTITUDE—The pilot of an American Airlines flight leaving the nation's capital the day after the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights refused to acknowledge the presence of gay and lesbian passengers and threatened them with action by the FBI.

Soon after flight 127 left Washington for Chicago on Oct. 12, Harry Taylor of Los Angeles asked a flight attendant to have the captain acknowledge the large number of passengers who had marched on Oct. 11.

A few moments later, Captain Norman Wilmans made his routine start-of-flight remarks, mentioning the score of the American League baseball championship game. Taylor said he felt that if the captain could announce baseball scores, he could mention the March. Taylor then led an impromptu cheer, asking his fellow gay and lesbian passengers "Was that a great March?" Dozens agreed it was, and Taylor then lead the group in two choruses of a chant frequently heard during the event, "What do we want? Gay Rights! When do we want it? Now!"

Taylor and Dan Greening, another passenger, worked together to circulate a petition, asking the pilot to acknowledge the lesbian and gay passengers. Of 140 people on the flight, 71 signed.

Flight attendants told the men the pilot still refused to make the announcement and that he had notified the FBI to meet the plane in Chicago.

As the plane approached O'Hare Airport, Wilmans addressed the passengers in the routine end-of-flight message. After the usual comments about time of arrival and ground weather conditions, he added that a group had asked to be recognized. "It is a good thing we're in the United States of America" where every group "has the right to be who they are," Wilman concluded, "but I have to warn them that they cannot impede the progress of the flight or the performance of the flight crew in their duties. If they persist there will be a reception for them in Chicago."

No FBI agents met the flight.

Several passengers said they intend to write letters of complaint to the American Airlines customer relations division, and they urge others to complain also.

□ Rick Moore

## NY cop slurs not ok

NEW YORK—The New York City Police Department recently issued an internal memorandum stating racial, ethnic and sexual slurs made between employees of the department would not be tolerated, according to the New York *Times*.

Employees who are subjected to remarks of an "ethnic, religious" nature or which involve "gender or sexual orientation," are instructed to notify the Civilian Complaint Review Board, which will report it to the department's office of equal opportunity.

A spokeswoman for the department said the order was the result of "various meetings in the high command," but it was not generated by an increase in bias-related incidents in the department.

The president of the Black officers' association, Detective Roger Abel, said, however, that "an undercurrent of racial tension" exists at the department, and that "sometimes derogatory comments are written onto lockers or made directly to Black officers."

□ Jennie McKnight

## NEWSNOTES

### COMPILED BY

JENNIE McKNIGHT

# Leather gets together

"I've waited all my life for this event"

By Mary Richards

WASHINGTON, DC — Organizers of the S/M Leather Conference, held the day before the Oct. 11 National March for Lesbian/Gay Rights, claim it was the largest of its kind ever.

S/M and leather activists from across the country attended, among them Scott Tucker, International Mr. Leather 1986; Judy Tallwing McCarthy, International Ms. Leather; and Chuck Renslow, Mr. International Leather contest producer. Seminar sessions were held on various topics, including: Increasing S/M Leather Presence in Gay and Lesbian Politics; S/M Leather and the Media; S/M Leather and the Law; Relationship Options; S/M Leather and the Women's Movement.

In the main hall on the first floor, s/m-leather groups were congregated behind tables displaying tools of their trade, t-shirts, pamphlets, magazines and informational leaflets. Bet Power of Southampton, Mass. stood behind one of the tables as she stopped work for a short interview: "The conference is very exciting. It's a breakthrough for s/m-leather people. I've waited all my life for this event. As part of the lesbian movement for twenty years, I've never seen an event that was this 'out' for s/m-leather lesbians and gay men. Coming out of the closet and seeing small groups from all over the country coming together is wonderful."

Power spoke about the energizing sup-

port the conference provided and seemed particularly impressed that men and women were working together. "I think the fact that gay men and lesbians and heterosexuals and bisexuals can come together around s/m is wonderful," she said. "I'm a member of a primarily heterosexual group in New York because I love the people and I love the scenes. This [s/m-leather] is one area where you can heal a lot of splits because of the roles: women don't have to be submissive anymore, and men don't have to be dominant. We can change roles, we can be anything we want to."

Tom Forestieri, another participant and a member of a gay s/m-leather group called Sigma, said of the conference, "I'm pleased to see such a wide variety of people from all over. I'm glad to see the public showing of the women who are here and are into the world of s/m. I always thought their numbers were lower, but their numbers are obviously much higher now."

Forestieri, who is general manager of a D.C. corporation, added, "It's great to have our conference in a building of this magnitude [Dept. of Commerce building]. It gives a sense of credibility and dignity to what used to be considered a subculture, which was always seen in the dark of night and in the alleys and the warehouse sections of town. Now we're right here in the middle of the nation's capital!"



Judy Tallwing McCarthy, Ms. International Leather, with the San Francisco Eagle Motorcycle club.

## Resolutions

Continued from page 1

of our organization." Another resolution "reaffirms that the struggle for liberation of women is not separate from the struggle for the emancipation and humanization of all people. We recognize that the revolutionary process is the only vehicle to attain the emancipation of women." Finally, the MLN pledges to "promote the integration of the women into the struggle for independence and socialism of Puerto Rico," and specifically, "at all levels of leadership in the organization, committing ourselves to achieving 50% representation." In fact, the newly elected MLN Political Commission (which represents the organization) is comprised of two women and two men.

Addressing what the MLN calls the "poorly understood" question of birth control, a resolution notes that in Puerto Rico "the question is not birth control, but population control. Sterilization has become a tool of genocide." (39% of Puerto Rico's women of child-bearing age have been sterilized.) The statement continues, "Women must have the right to exercise complete control over their bodies: abortion, pregnancy, sterilization. It is their body! It is their right!"

Another resolution calls for efforts to "combat racism both within and outside of the organization. We in the MLN believe that it is incumbent on all of us as *independentistas* to combat and eradicate it to contribute to a new society in which the aspects of our African heritage are recognized and appreciated as part of our Puerto Rican culture."

Gay MLN member Pedro Sanchez Perez told *GCN*, "The MLN's position on homosexuality will stir a debate that

ultimately must lead to legitimizing the right of gay people to participate in Puerto Rico's national liberation struggle. As an openly gay *independentista*, I follow in the footsteps of past gays who could not be open within the movement, and hope to set an example for future gays who will be open."

Commenting on the MLN's decisions, Marion Banzhaf, a white North American member of the Lesbian and Gay liberation and Solidarity Committee in New York, told *GCN*, "As long as 'my' government is colonizing Puerto Rico, I will support any group fighting for that country's independence, whether or not I agree with them on all social issues. But the MLN broke new ground in its positions on racism, sexism, and especially on heterosexism. They recognize that a movement of national liberation must address *all* people's demands. And by placing women in leadership, they have taken real action, instead of just a lofty position, that paves the way for future gains by Puerto Rican women and all women."

Over 250 people, primarily Puerto Ricans but also many North American solidarity and peace activists, attended the Congress. There were speeches by officials of other Puerto Rican grass-roots organizations, as well as revolutionary groups from Chile, the Dominican Republic and the Congo. Also addressing the gathering were representatives of Black and Mexican liberation groups in the U.S. Another speaker was Shelley Miller, a white North American lesbian who is a leader of the MLN-led New Movement in Solidarity with Puerto Rican Independence. In January, Miller was released after two years in federal prison for resisting the same grand jury as the MLN members. (See *GCN*'s Lesbian Prisoner Supplement, Vol. 15, No. 7.)

# Guilty plea entered in sex case

*Plea bargain may soften sentence of a man accused of illegally transporting two teenagers from Puerto Rico*

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — Donald Dobson has become the first person to be prosecuted under a federal statute prohibiting interstate transportation of minors with the intent to engage in illegal sexual activities. The statute was passed by Congress in November of 1986. (See *GCN*, Vol. 14, No. 23)

Dobson's case was heard in U.S. District Court on Oct. 21.

Dobson, who previously pleaded innocent to the charges, changed his plea after accepting a plea bargain.

Under the plea bargain, Dobson will be psychologically evaluated by a therapist chosen by the federal government and Dobson's lawyer. The therapist will make a recommendation regarding Dobson's treatment and sentencing. The U.S. Attorney's office has agreed to follow the therapist's recommendation, with the understanding that it will recommend a minimum of six months imprisonment for Dobson. According to Dobson's attorney, John Ward, it is conceivable, but not likely, that the judge will give Dobson a longer sentence than that recommended by the government. The maximum penalty for each count against Dobson is ten years imprisonment and \$250,000.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Susan Via claims Dobson brought a 14-year-old teenager from Puerto Rico to his home in Medway, Massachusetts. Shortly thereafter he paid for the teenager's 15-year-old friend to come to live with them, she asserted.

According to Via, Dobson had oral sex with both boys on numerous occasions and threatened to stop giving them gifts and to send them back to Puerto Rico if they refused sex.

"There's no factual basis [for Via's charges]," countered Ward. Ward, who said it appears that the teens were prostitutes, said he would not comment on Dobson's relationship with the teenagers until the sentencing hearing. Sentencing is scheduled for December 7. Ward is seeking to postpone the sentencing date.

Dobson is also facing charges from the state of Massachusetts for having sex with minors. That case will be heard in court next month.

Dobson's case has received notoriety in the past month due to the Boston *Herald's* sensationalist coverage of the Boston-based Committee for Civil Liberties and Sexual Freedom (CCLSF). The recently-formed Committee, which has attempted to intervene in the Dobson case, advocates fair treatment for all parties when sexual activities between gay men and minors is charged.

Gary Dotterman and French Wall, two members of CCLSF who were aides to gay Boston City Councilor David Sondras, were fired by the City Council for their membership in the Committee. The Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts is planning a legal challenge to the Council's right to fire the aides.

## Trouble in Paradise

*Two of bar's customers are victims of drugging and mugging incidents*

By Kim Westheimer

CAMBRIDGE, MA — Police are searching for a man implicated in two incidents where customers of the Paradise, a gay bar, were drugged and robbed.

The man, who calls himself "Domenic Perini," is believed to have slipped the drug Serax into the drinks of two men, one on Sept. 19 and the other on Oct. 15. Both men blacked out from the drug and woke up hours later in their own homes.

Serax, which was detected in both men's urine following the incident, is a prescribed anti-anxiety drug which is dangerous when mixed with alcohol.

According to John Graves, who was robbed on Sept. 19, Perini approached him in the bar and said, "This is my birthday, can I buy you a drink to help celebrate?" The man bought Graves a screwdriver.

Graves said Perini seemed to want to pick him up. Following a brief conversation, Perini asked Graves if he could kiss him. Graves said the last thing he remembered thinking before he blacked out was wanting to leave the bar.

The next thing Graves recalls is waking up at six or seven that morning in his own bed, wearing only his underwear. He said his telephone/answering machine, silver, family antiques and tennis trophies were stolen. Graves' car, which was recovered in Charlestown, was also stolen. In addition Perini reportedly took some of Graves' credit cards and attempted to use them in a variety of stores.

Graves said that Perini must have been confident that the Serax would keep him blacked out for hours, since his refrigerator had been raided and dirty dishes were in the sink when he finally awoke.

Graves said he immediately reported the incident to the Boston Police, who did not check his house for fingerprints and "were not very helpful."

Only after Robert Debenedictis reported a similar incident to the Cambridge Police was there any apparent action by authorities in the case.

Debenedictis described his run-in with Perini as follows. Perini said it was his birthday and asked to buy Debenedictis a drink. While Debenedictis was hesitant at first, he later acquiesced. Perini bought two shots of Midori. Debenedictis was surprised that his

drink was bitter but said he thought little of it at the time.

After finishing his drink, Debenedictis said he went outside with Perini to look at the sound system in Perini's car. The next thing he said he remembers is hearing his alarm clock go off in his home. Fifty-five dollars were stolen from his wallet and his automatic bank teller card was gone. He said \$300 had been withdrawn from his account that morning from bank machines near his home.

Although he said he does not remember telling Perini the code number for his bank card, Debenedictis said he does remember Perini talking extensively about bank cards in their conversation at the bar.

Debenedictis said he believes the Cambridge Police are seriously investigating the case. According to Detective William Phillips, a picture of Perini is being obtained from a bank where Perini used Debenedictis' bank card. Phillips said he is investigating whether the crimes are anti-gay motivated. Discrimination against lesbians and gay men is banned by the Cambridge Human Rights Ordinance.

Workers at the Paradise bar have been notified of the incidents and given a description of Perini, said bar manager Don Finn. According to Debenedictis, Perini is about 5 feet 8 inches tall and has a smooth, olive complexion. He has blue eyes, a medium to large build, high cheekbones and dark hair. According to Finn, none of the bar employees recollects a man of that description at the bar on the nights of the incidents.

Debenedictis and Graves said they were seriously shaken by the events. "The scariest thing was waking up and not knowing how I had gotten there," said Graves. "I was totally at someone's mercy." Debenedictis said he was disoriented for a few days after the incident from the aftereffects of the drugs. "I'm a little weirded out. The guy knows where I live," he said, adding "[but] worrying won't get me anywhere."

Debenedictis also noted there was a "silver lining" in the incident. "I was amazed at the support network the gay community has. The Victim's Recovery Program [for lesbian and gay victims of crime] at the Fenway [Community Health Center] has been great."

GCN welcomes all letters to the editor except personal attacks. Carbon copies of letters sent elsewhere are printed on a space-available basis. The opinions expressed here are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN membership. Letters must be TYPED, DOUBLE-SPACED AND NO LONGER THAN THREE PAGES. Send to: Community Voices, GCN, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

## Redesign proof of GCN vitality

Dear GCN:

Thank you for the redesign. Just a couple of months ago I was looking at GCN and thinking the pictures needed to be bigger, that page one could use a couple of big pictures, since the good pictures were buried inside the paper. I can't imagine that the photographers who contributed to GCN were very pleased with what was done with their work.

I think GCN has always been very strong in news content, but it was never very pleasing to the eye. That's changed now. I also detect an effort to be more clever with headlines, which I think is an improvement, and an effort to put interesting, almost feature-style stories on page one, instead of just breaking news, which I also see as a good idea. You also seem to have adopted a modular layout, squaring off the stories next to each other instead of running a three-column story below a four-column story. That helps give the paper a more sophisticated feel as well.

To me, the redesign is proof of GCN's vitality. Why can't a paper that serves the lesbian and gay community look like something you'd want to read as well?

Love,  
Bob Nelson  
Jersey City

## Punishment for PWAs who knowingly transmit

Dear GCN:

Kudos to Rep. Barney Frank for saying "it's a mistake for gay people to act so defensive" about AIDS (GCN, Oct. 4-10). He was referring to widespread hostility in the gay community to laws punishing people who knowingly transmit the AIDS virus. I have never been able to understand how anyone can defend those who have AIDS, are aware of the pain that comes with it, and have sex with people knowing that there is a high probability that they are literally killing their sex partners. I'd like to see someone against punishment explain to a person dying from AIDS that her/his life is less important than the right of an infected person to have random sex.

Some would reply that if people are educated to have safe sex, there wouldn't be a problem. First of all, the Reagan administration refuses to inform the public about safe sex, so many if not most people don't know a lot about it. But this also brings up another issue about which there is too much defensiveness. Various activities, including the use of condoms, have been presented as safe sex, while they are in fact only safer sex. Many now believe that if you use a condom, you will not get AIDS. But with a failure rate of two to three percent (and probably higher for anal sex), that is patently untrue and should be presented as such in safe sex literature. Literature should also include warnings about the low risk activities of deep kissing and being the recipient of oral sex, because of the danger of a cut in the mouth, and warnings about oral sex before ejaculation because of the danger of pre-cum.

All this does tell the truth, a truth many want to ignore. But people should be allowed to make a truly educated choice, and realize that true safe sex (such as mutual masturbation), a monogamous relationship with a non-infected partner, and abstinence are the only activities without risk.

Monogamy, abstinence, and punishment for people who knowingly transmit AIDS are some of the ideas the ideological Right advocates. That is a major reason why gay people are so defensive about them. But they don't have to be Right-wing ideas. Abstinence and monogamy are matters of morality for the Right. For lesbians and gay men they should be personal choices. Education is immoral for the Right because it involves talking about sex. For lesbians and

gay men education should be a way to lessen the risk of getting AIDS for those who choose to have oral sex or intercourse. Quarantine is a way to round up people the Right sees as undesirable. For lesbians and gay men, quarantine should be a way to punish those who put the value of their own sexual pleasure over the value of other people's lives.

There are many AIDS-related issues to be defensive about. Mandatory testing, non-confidentiality and discrimination against people with AIDS are among them. Simply presenting facts about risks in safer sex and advocating punishment of those who knowingly infect others are not.

Sincerely,  
David Olson  
Morton Grove, IL

## "Crotch humor" belittling

Dear GCN:

The march is over, but the memories of our solidarity and strength will be with us forever. While most of those memories are wonderful, there was one aspect of our march that did qualify as a bad memory.

The first female emcee for the afternoon rally, Lea Delaria, in an attempt at humor, wound up belittling our cause with "crotch humor." Lea Delaria had over 400,000 people before her and wasted this valuable opportunity by telling jokes about women prostituting within the lesbian community. There is no room for attempts at humor regarding prostitution, the accompanied degradation, abuse and hideous poverty that reduces women to such lives. The comedian's extremely poor sense of humor also implied women who engage in prostitution choose it, rather than being forced through poverty, drug dependency and/or coercion.

In addition, Lea Delaria offended men in the crowd. While leaving Washington Monday morning I overheard a male couple and their friends state they were offended by her humor, and felt much of it was anti-male.

Sunday was still a jubilant day, a day with activities and speakers I will never forget.

Terry Grant Williams  
Boston, MA

## Society 'understands' violence; it's love that's feared

Dear GCN:

I am a prisoner of the state of Texas serving a long sentence because I spent an evening with some underage hustlers. I was accused after these young people had gotten into trouble at home and the mother called the police. They told a story about me in order to relieve pressure from off themselves (by police and parents). I was accused of being 'aggressive and threatening' and many other vicious lies during the trial, after the prosecutor had had the chance to coach the witnesses. These young people first approached me. They were quite experienced. But I was portrayed in court as a 'monster'. I have little or no hope for legal relief now, although an investigation into their promiscuity might improve my position for an appeal and could lead to a reduction in sentence. Only if it could be shown that they lied at the prompting of the prosecutor could I hope to go free. But of course that would require an attorney and I can't afford it.

During the past nearly year and a half, I've written letters looking for some legal aid, but I've discovered that a murderer has more of a chance to find help and support than does a gentle loving man. Indeed, myself and thousands of others like me spend lifetimes in prisons while many violent men are set free after short sentences. This society understands violence; it is love that is feared.

I have a job here and am enrolled in a college program. My routine helps to keep the dark clouds from overcoming me. But I've left behind in Ohio my 72 year old mother who needs me there. I may never again see her. Someone else whom I love with all of my heart will grow up without finding the dreams that we shared. My reason for being in Texas while my loved ones are in Ohio is a long story, but I planned to stay here only for a short time. When I was approached by those young people I was lonely. Now there may be nothing to go home to whenever I get out. That, along with the brand I'll carry and the probably long parole period with restrictions and no doubt counseling re-

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of eleven, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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quirements, makes for a bleak picture of the future, especially at my present age of 43.

In my college courses I'm stressing English. I'd very much like to contribute something, concerning issues of importance in my area of knowledge and experience, either for publication or through the mail, in support of others who suffer a similar fate as myself. I have access to a typewriter and I wish to communicate. I have the need to fill the void left by this loveless prison existence.

I would very much appreciate any friendly words.

A prisoner in Texas  
[Letters may be sent through GCN]

## Repeal N.H. foster care law

Dear GCN:

Your paper is one more stop on my road to trying to create or enhance awareness of an extremely important and often neglected issue here in New Hampshire. Thankfully, you have given the issue some treatment in your article, "New Hampshire Foster Care Fiasco." As a straight male friend of Tom Herman and Jeremy Youst, the two men whose license was lifted in the wake of the passage of the rather myopic law forbidding foster care by gay adults, I feel that we need to look closely at the real issues which fuel the fires of ridiculous laws passed by narrow-minded "representatives of our communities. These central issues are familiar to us all; they are *fear and apathy*.

The fear is represented all too clearly by N.H. representative Mildred Ingram. Ingram is afraid of something she knows nothing about. Worse, she is in a powerful enough position to transmit her fears to her colleagues and her constituency. Even worse, she is hiding behind the cloak of moral outrage and righteous indignation and quoting scripture to cover her fears.

The apathy side of the coin is clearly represented by the paragraph in your article which I quote here:

Foster parents did not organize against the anti-gay foster care law when it was being considered in the legislature because "there didn't seem to be anything indicated to foster parents currently licensed that the law would affect them personally in some way," said LeShane.

So, thanks to apathy, we are left with the successful efforts of a fear-crazed moralizing modern-day witch hunter. And you know who suffers? Those who are the most vulnerable and helpless: the children.

When, for God's sake, are we going to start looking past our own little worlds into the broader picture? This is *not* a gay/straight issue. This is a *people* issue and some pretty good little people are being hurt by the adult world once again.

Enough is enough. It is time to call for the repeal of the law before this moral blight spreads and cannot be held in check.

Very truly yours,  
William S. Gemmell  
Keene, NH



## Dance with GCN for Halloween

Two wonderful affinity groups — Red Shades and United Fruit Co. — are throwing the second annual Halloween bash to benefit GCN SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 at Villa Victoria Cultural Center in the South End. Plan your costumes now and reserve the date. Watch GCN for details.

# We the people / We the 25 million

By David Fair

*The following is excerpted from a speech at the seventh annual convention of the National Association of Black and White Men Together in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this past summer.*

The neighborhood I work in, around 13th and Locust Streets in Philadelphia, is known for its wide-open, "anything goes" kind of atmosphere. There's a lot of hustling and prostitution, drug selling and buying, and homosexuality.

About eighteen months ago, two black drag queens who worked that particular block were kidnapped. I knew them because they used to use the ladies room in my union hall. They were found a few weeks after the kidnapping, chopped up into little pieces and stuffed into Glad Bags in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

What's interesting about this incident is not so much that it happened — a number of black drag queens have disappeared in Philadelphia over the past 24 months without a trace — but the organized lesbian and gay community has been totally silent.

Meanwhile, a few weeks ago a white gay man walking about a block away from my union hall was chased by a group of fag-bashers into the lobby of a hotel right across the street. They started to beat him, right there in the lobby. He was eventually rescued when hotel security decided to break things up.

This story was on the front page of the city's daily newspapers the next day. The Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force and other gay organizations demanded — and got — immediate meetings with the police commissioner.

There were editorials not only in the gay papers, but in the mainstream press and on TV and the radio.

The way the movement responded to these two incidents says something very serious about the kind of movement we have.

Last Saturday morning one of my union members at Hahnemann Hospital stopped by to tell me that a patient with AIDS had jumped out of a window on the 18th floor of the hospital the night before. I didn't know this man or the special pain that must have led him across that window sill, but as I thought about what happened, it struck me for maybe the thousandth time that AIDS kills in all sorts of ways, and that gay people suffer in all sorts of ways different from the experience of everybody else.

What kind of person was the man who died? We know that because he had AIDS, he was an undesirable, a burden, unacceptable to the mainstream. If he was also a drug addict, or if he was gay, then he was also considered defective, suspect, immoral, sinful, and, in most states, illegal.

And if, god forbid, in addition to all the above, he was poor, or black or Puerto Rican, then it's no wonder he would lose faith and seek a quicker end. Being poor, or not-white, or gay or addicted — they all add up to the price of a ticket to oblivion in America in 1987.

When I say "oblivion," I mean to say that we, too, the mainstream of the gay and lesbian movement, cast such people out. We have no room for them. They have little to do with the community and movement we have built in our image, except at those times (increasingly rare) when our liberal guilt needs comforting.

So far there's only one gay and lesbian movement in our society, but there are at least two gay Americas.

There's a gay America that has not been cast into oblivion, but only shunted to the side, the one made up of individuals dedicated to seeking compensation for their insulted self-esteem, the one that demands an equal chance to make money the way things are, *regardless of their sexual preference*, able to take for granted education, professional connections, upper-class affections.

It's the gay America of Advocate Men and Capital P Capital C Politically Correct W-I-M-M-I-N.

It's the gay America of Provincetown summers and women's festival weekends, of disposable income and conspicuous consumption, of the latest style in clothes and haircuts, of materialism, consumerism, youthism and slimnessism, workoutism and

tanning salonism.

And it's the gay America "community" organizations.

We have organizations for men, for women, for older gays and even older gays, for dyke-ettes and fag-ettes, for queens and bikers, for lesbians and gay women, for bisexuals who are married and others who are just confused, for blacks, for whites, (but only one for blacks and whites), for fathers and mothers who are gay and their fathers or mothers, who claim they're not, for the politically-correct and the politically-unsure, for those who merely seek tolerance of gay and lesbian lifestyles and those who believe that same-sex behavior is the revolutionary-feminist-vanguard-that-will-overturn-capitalist-oppression-and-bring-about-peace-and-justice-for-all-humankind.

When Alyn Hess wrote to me about my appearing here today he asked me to address what he called "the need for

*Somebody else out there is gay besides the people we're used to calling the "gay and lesbian community..."*

economic justice as well as civil rights."

"I get the feeling," he wrote, "that not enough members understand how economic inequality impinges upon their personal relationships...what I see going on in America today is peasantization, the creation of a new peasant or under class."

I'll be happy to address those questions. But the real question I want to address is how economic inequality impinges, not only on our personal relationships, but on our movement, on our identity as a community, on our ability to protect and advance the interests of the lesbian and gay community in all its diversity and with all its needs.

Because there is, after all, another gay America, one which we're trained not to think about when the GWM's publish their so-called "gay community" newspapers and write their so-called "gay" plays and send out their stylish press releases about what's hot and trendy in the so-called gay and lesbian lifestyle.

In Philadelphia this year we're celebrating the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution — you know, the one the U.S. Supreme Court says doesn't apply to us — and the official name of the celebration is "We The People." The people who call themselves the gay and lesbian community in Philadelphia are organizing a counter-demonstration under the slogan "We the 25 Million," basing their message on the old Kinsey statistic that 10% of any given population is probably homosexual.

Now, I don't know if that 10% figure really makes sense, but since we all seem to put such stock into it, let's think about what it means.

If 10% of the U.S. population is gay or lesbian, then it's true that there are 25 million Americans with some kind of homosexual preference today.

Think about that for a minute. 25 million! That's a lot of people. It's a *real lot* of people.

And it's obvious that the people who we most easily see as the gay and lesbian community, the gay America I just described, don't add up to anywhere near 25 million people.

So that means that somebody else out there is gay besides the people we're used to calling the "gay and lesbian community." And a lot of those somebody elses belong to a different gay America.

There are over 33 million people in this country who live below the Reagan Administration's definition of the poverty line. And, following our movement logic, almost three-and-a-half million of them are gay.

There are over 40 million people in this country who go to bed every night

malnourished — many of them children who have to do with a Pepsi and a bag of potato chips as their evening meal. And 4 million of those hungry people are gay.

There are 4 million homeless people in this country today, without jobs, without shelter, in most cases without much hope and with very few advocates — and over 400,000 of them are gay.

Think about that, too. 400,000 homeless gay men and women, living on streets and subways, shelters and doorways, many selling their bodies and their self-respect for a warm meal and a warm corner.

4 million hungry gay men and women, unable to dine in fagot splendor in the fine gay establishments we so dearly want to "be seen" at.

3 1/2 million under-or-un-employed, uninsured, un-wanted and outcast gay people, living in the kind of *real* poverty that makes our movement's leaders grasp their gold lambda medallions for dear life when one of us looks at them funny on their way to the grocery stores in their gentrified neighborhoods.

It is now time to build a new concept of "unity" among gay and lesbian people, a unity built around the genuine needs and demands of "We the 25 Million."

Unity demands full employment of our people at a living wage.

Unity demands affordable housing for our homeless people.

Unity demands a national health system that guarantees quality health care regardless of one's ability to pay.

Unity demands economic justice and end to racist practices in American society as a whole and the gay community in particular.

"The worst sin toward our fellow creatures is not to hate them," George Bernard Shaw once wrote, "but to be indifferent to them. That's the essence of inhumanity."

*"Speaking Out" is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings and comments to us, and to respond to ideas expressed in this space. The opinions expressed are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN membership. Submissions must be TYPED, DOUBLE-SPACED, AND NO LONGER THAN FIVE PAGES. Send to: Speaking Out, GCN, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.*

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To apply for these positions, please send resume and cover letter ASAP to GCN Job Search Committee, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.



GMHC comic

## Congress

Continued from page 1

"This is merely a convenient way for Helms to carry out his agenda. He doesn't want any money going to gay groups or to combat AIDS."

Educators say they worry the amendment threatens the vitally important educational work that tailors information about AIDS to particular communities. A different approach is appropriate for each community. Some need information about sharing needles, some need explicitly sexual displays while others need the most basic sex education. This educational strategy, educators claim, is the only way to save lives.

Henri Norris, Project Director of the Multicultural Alliance for the Prevention of AIDS in Oakland, Calif., said the denial of federal funds would have a devastating effect on education. "Prohibiting the direct communication about AIDS on the theory that it might promote homosexuality is obscene. We need to have the freedom to address every community and their particular needs. This is nothing but a red herring for racism and homophobia on the part of Helms, a racism and homophobia which will help spread the worst epidemic of the century."

Don Edwards of the National Minority AIDS Network added, "This will have a chilling effect on any politically sensitive work anyone does." He expressed concern that educating drug addicts to use clean needles would now be equated with promoting drug use, if Congress follows Helms' logic.

Gay activists said they were shocked by the overwhelming vote in favor of the amendment. Except for Weicker and Moynihan, all other Senate supporters of the federal gay and lesbian rights bill voted in favor of the amendment, including Sens. Edward Kennedy (D-MA), John Kerry (D-MA), Alan Cranston (D-CA), Daniel Inouye (D-HI) and Brock Adams (D-WA).

Sue Hyde, Director of the Privacy Project of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), said although she did not expect to win such a vote, she did at least expect the friends of the gay and lesbian community in the Senate to stand up against Helms. "For me it is a simple question," said Hyde. "They are denying funding to a program that keeps us alive. They are saying that they do not care whether we live or die."

Kennedy and Cranston claim they had no choice but to vote for the amendment, despite strongly disagreeing with it. Cranston's liaison to the gay and lesbian community, Marian Rodrigues, told *GCN* the Senate allowed Helms to steer the debate away from AIDS education and toward homosexuality. "Nobody wants the federal government to promote homosexuality, just as nobody wants to promote heterosexuality," said Rodrigues.

"Legislators are scared to death that they might look like they are promoting homosexuality," said Perri Jude, an NGLTF lobbyist, "and that is the way it looks because of the way Helms framed the issue. They believe that this just will not sell back home. We must send them a message that their homophobia does not sell back home." Jude added that legislators more easily support anti-discrimination bills because "anyone can stand up for the individual without appearing to promote homosexuality."

□ filed from Boston

- INDIVIDUAL GROUP/COUPLE
- GAY SENSITIVE THERAPY

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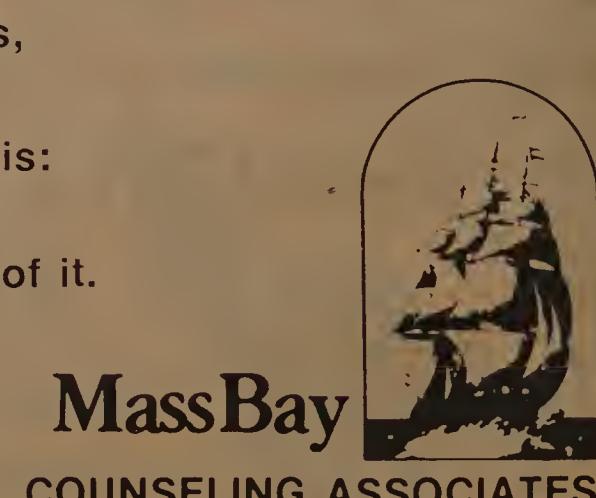
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Denholm Elliott as Dr. Barrie discusses some of the facts of life with James Wilby's Maurice, not realizing that the young man has discovered some facts of his own while at school.

## Pretty postures

Ivory and Merchant put out Forster's fire in Maurice

**Maurice.** Directed by James Ivory. Written by James Ivory and Kit Hesketh-Harvey. Based upon the novel by E. M. Forster. With James Wilby, Hugh Grant, Rupert Graves, Denholm Elliott, Simon Callow, Billie Whitelaw, Ben Kingsley, Mark Tandy. At the Nickelodeon and the Janus.

By Michael Bronski

Practically everybody loved *A Room With A View*, based upon the E.M. Forster novel and produced and directed by life partners James Ivory and Ismail Merchant. Its huge success seemed to guarantee an enthusiastic greeting to whatever the team might next produce. It may have seemed like a good time then to put together a film which might have, as they say in the industry, a "limited audience." Unfortunately, *Maurice*, based upon Forster's self-suppressed novel of homoeroticism and social repression, has little of the charm of *Room's* spirited social comedy of manners; it is closer in tone to the team's earlier, and quite stuffy, *The Bostonians*. *Maurice* is a film about breaking through repression and it feels, well, a little repressed.

It is hard to say what went wrong where. Most of the critics have placed the blame on Forster's novel, calling it a simple-minded *apologia* for homosexuality or an early gay liberation romance/call to arms, now more quaint than quintessential. Some have described the novel as an insignificant work of wish-fulfillment — to dismiss not only its political importance but literary quality as well. (What no one ever says is that all fiction — novels, plays, poetry, film — is to some degree wish-fulfillment and fantasy.) But upon closer examination it is clear that the problem lies not with Forster's novel but with the Ivory/Hesketh-Harvey screenplay. In attempting to view the original material through a post-gay liberation/modernist sensibility, the filmmakers have not only taken the life from the story but reduced it to a series of postures.

Forster began writing *Maurice* in 1913 just after a visit with Edward Carpenter. Carpenter was an openly gay philosopher/socialist who lived with his working class lover, George Merrill. Forster writes in his end note to the novel:

It must have been my second or third visit to the shrine that the spark was kindled and he and his comrade George Merrill combined to make a profound impression on me and to touch a creative spring. George Merrill also touched my backside — gently and just above the buttocks. I believe he touched most people's. The sensation was unusual and I still remember it. It was as much psychological as physical. It seemed to go through the small of my back into my ideas without involving my thoughts.

Forster returned home immediately and began writing *Maurice*. What began as a romance — and from the beginning Forster knew that it had to have a happy ending — was not only a record of its author's own journey to his physical sexuality, but also an analysis of how other Edwardians viewed gayness.

*Maurice* is the story of a young man, played in the film by James Wilby, from a

prosperous middle class suburb, who falls in love with his classmate — Clive Durham (Hugh Grant) — while at Cambridge. They form an intense friendship (and both discover the notion and the words for what they are feeling from reading *The Symposium* and other Greek classics), but under Clive's insistence remain platonic. To act on this love, Clive insists, would be to dirty it. After graduation Clive has an identity crisis and gets married. Maurice visits his ex-lover's country home and through a series of chance meetings begins to have an affair with Alec Scudder (Rupert Graves), the gamekeeper. As the book ends, Clive is attempting to make peace with his choice of marriage and Maurice and Alec get ready to face the world.

In his fine essay, "Edward Carpenter and the double structure of *Maurice*," (reprinted in *Literary Visions of Homosexuality* edited by S. Kellogg; Hayworth Press) gay literary critic Robert K. Martin makes a very good case that the novel "is not a plea for homosexual rights, but an exploration in awareness of a homosexual protagonist, who moves from a false solution to a truer one."

But rather than making a story of a young man's growth and self-knowledge, writers Ivory and Hesketh-Harvey have made a simple coming out story about a young man fighting against English repression in order to become a full-fledged homosexual. The film points out to us how the church, medicine, law, and academic hypocrisy conspire to keep Maurice from becoming his own person. They have even added an episode in which Risley (a minor character in the novel) is arrested and how this makes up Clive's mind to become heterosexual. Now there is nothing wrong with showing homophobia — god knows, this is one of the few films to take up the question and treat it seriously. But even the effort to show a homophobic British culture comes off flat, because the film — and other recent Merchant/Ivory works — seem predicated on an almost fetishistic appreciation of English society.

The other, and a fairly major, problem with making *Maurice* about repression is that the Ivory/Hesketh-Harvey script has reduced all of Forster's women characters to simple stereotypes representing stodgy and inhibited British culture. This is particularly frustrating in the case of Billie Whitelaw, a great actress, who must play Maurice's mother in small snippets of scenes intended to convey the small-mindedness of her class and gender.

To give the women — especially the younger women — characters would have created some heterosexual tension in the film and that would have put another crimp in the Ivory/Merchant style. Although their films have dealt with issues of gender and sexuality (*Quartet*, *The Bostonians* and *Heat and Dust* particularly) they are never very good at dealing with sex itself.

The romanticized style which relies heavily upon both good taste and a certain amount of visual and editing restraint ensures that *Maurice* is not a hot movie. Yes, the boys are pretty (as is the furniture) and they do languidly touch. But even when they go to bed with one another it's hard to imagine that any of the characters have hard-ons.

What *Maurice* lacks, ironically, is that

Continued on page 12

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When others complacently accepted Reagan's re-election in 1984, Alice organized Cambridge to produce the largest Mondale/Ferraro vote in Massachusetts. Alice also actively opposed regulations prohibiting the placement of foster care children in non-traditional settings and spoke on the floor of the Democratic Convention for extending Party outreach to lesbians and gay men.

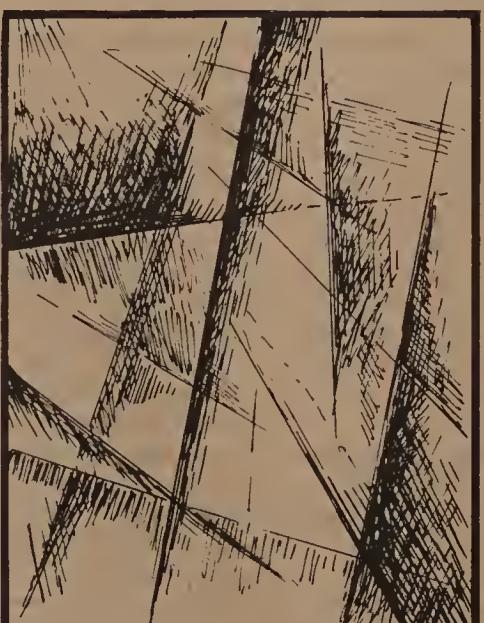
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Maggy Krebs



A greeting card by Maggy with her verse:

Sometimes  
we are  
left  
holding fragments...  
from which  
a cathedral window  
can be made.

*Born January 31, 1929 in Boyle Heights, Calif., feminist, lesbian artist Maggy Krebs died just a few hours before her 58th birthday.*

*Growing up at a time when it was difficult to live a lesbian lifestyle, Maggy worked for self-acceptance through extensive writing, and through her art, which included greeting cards, photography, jewelry, cartooning and graphics.*

*In 1972 she moved to the Boston area where she was a layout volunteer at Gay Community News (1974-75). She also did artwork for Otherfund, Homophile*

*Community Health Services (now Gay and Lesbian Counseling Services) and the Gay Pride Committee. Maggy had been active in a number of community groups in the Los Angeles area, including Daughters of Bilitis and the gay theater group SPREE.*

*Her recent artwork was featured at the Kaleidoscope Art Show in Cambridge, Mass. in spring of 1986 and the Femmecore Art Show in Boston in fall of 1986. Some of her cartoons will be included in *Ourselves Growing Older* (Simon and Schuster), a health and living handbook due in bookstores Nov. 1.*



"Life Cycle" — a greeting card by Maggy

# Support living a

**The Maggy Krebs Caring Group**  
community is learning  
and grief — our own  
we have always needed  
AIDS has made our work  
critical than ever.

By Diana Goldfarb

**O**n January 30, 1987, Maggy Krebs died of cancer at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston. There were no doctors or family present, but Maggy did not die alone. At her bedside was a family of friends, people who had come together during Maggy's illness to help her and to help each other.

In a series of group interviews, the nine members of Maggy's support group — Mary Leno, Betty Furdon, Jane S., David Peterson, Diana S., Lynn Swift, Janet, Jan Forte and Shirley Sartori — talked about what made the group work and what pitfalls it encountered.

#### Group Purpose and History

The group came together in late August, the summer of 1986, "to help ourselves and each other help Maggy. Our goal was to help Maggy, who didn't have a family, but we knew we needed help in order to do that."

"It was within a short time of Maggy's becoming incapacitated," recalled Jane, who along with Mary Leno helped bring the group together for the first time. According to Mary, "Things were progressing so that it was becoming very questionable how much longer Maggy would be home by herself. She wasn't facing those issues."

"I wanted it for myself, really," said Jane. "I have to say that. I knew I wanted to be with Maggy as long as I could...I knew Maggy well enough, and I knew enough of her friends to feel that though she was a woman who was so contradictory in many extreme ways, she had a lot of friends who wanted to be with her. I felt that other people would want this [group]. I was pretty sure there would be a lot of people."

#### Group Structure

There is general consensus among the members that Maggy played a significant role in the formation of her own caring group. "Maggy inspired a lot of loyalty," recounted Jane. "She had already gathered a group, maybe not with any set tasks, and I'm sure not with any conscious design by her, but she had attracted people to her."

"Group members tended to be the ones who were hanging in most consistently with Maggy," added Mary. "Not jumping in for a little bit and jumping back out. It wasn't any big process. Names weren't submitted and we didn't vote. There were some people who showed some interest and then faded back. It was a sort of self-selected group."

The group named itself the Maggy Krebs Caring Group to make it easier for hospital staff to identify members and their relationship with and their responsibility to Maggy. "When I called the doctor at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital," remembered Lynn, "I simply gave my name and said 'I'm calling for the Maggy Krebs Caring Group.' And the doctor said 'Yes?' immediately. They obviously knew about us. That was a help."

Group members met irregularly, as often as need dictated. As Betty recalled, "...We started meeting at a very intense time. We didn't decide at the first meeting, 'Let's

# Art for the living and the dying

Living Group is one model of the ways our group coped with extended illness, death and that of friends and lovers. While we had such lesbian/gay support systems, our ability to take care of each other more



Painting from Maggy's cancer series

meet every week.' But we did decide at the first meeting that we had to get together again the next week. After that meeting, two or three days would go by and a crisis would happen, and we'd all call each other and say, 'Yes, we need to meet again this week.' But it wasn't planned that way. It was just the intensity of the situation."

At the beginning of each meeting, members took time to check in, to share their feelings, their stresses, tensions, anger, and fear. At check-in, members tried to deal with their emotions, to clear the air so members could focus on the business of helping Maggy, while still providing help and support to each other.

According to Betty, "Checking in started almost immediately. People said, 'I need to take a minute and just talk about what happened this week with Maggy.'"

"One time we didn't check in," recalled David. "We just started right into an agenda. And the next meeting, several people brought up that they really needed the check-in, that was an important part of the meeting."

All group decisions were made by consensus. "As far as the process is concerned," explained Diana, "enough people in this group had been involved in feminist group consensus decision making from other experiences that that was just the natural style of the group. It was a small enough group, and intensely enough involved, that it works."

#### Group Responsibility

Maggy made as many decisions as possible about her medical care. According to Diana, "Some of us in the group had opinions about what might be more comfortable for Maggy. But there were a lot of things over which she kept control in certain ways."

"And from the start, Maggy decided by herself the course of her treatment," recalled Mary. "She chose radiation and chemotherapy. We gave opinions when she would say things, but as a group we weren't involved in that."

As David described it, "There were some decisions we did make. But a lot of those came later. We tried to figure out what would be best in a situation. So it wasn't that we decided and announced to Maggy such and such. It was a matter of us knowing what questions would be coming up and figuring out if we had to do anything, or what the different options were that Maggy could choose, or that we would end up having to choose. Clearly, after Maggy was dead we had to make the decisions. But while she was still alive, a lot of it was deciding what kinds of decisions would have to be made down the road, then doing the research, and then trying to figure out how to approach Maggy about it."

The group did make a decision about Maggy's care when she became too ill to be cared for at home. Jane, Mary and David explained that "There was a time when Maggy was home and then went back to the

hospital....She was alert but she was very confused and weak. Maggy came home and virtually everyone [involved] was down for the duration [of the visit]. After a while, we called an emergency meeting because it was clear we as a group did not have the collective strength to deal with her. And I think we really did decide that she had to go back into the hospital. If not for her sake, then for ours. At least long enough for us to arrange home health care. It was one of those times when everyone was already burned out. We had to get the wheels rolling because Maggy could just decide that she was either going to stay home or check herself out [of the hospital] again the following week. And we had to get some professional care in there because we just couldn't do it ourselves."

"To make a long story short, we called the doctor and told her, 'We think you should keep Maggy. She cannot participate in her own care at all.'"

The group was also involved in making sure Maggy arranged for power of attorney so that she could choose someone to direct her medical care if that became necessary.

Mary, who was the executrix of Maggy's will, explained "We said to Maggy, 'You know, it's very important that you continue to have control over yourself.' As your executor, I think you should think about a power of attorney in case you get sick and you don't want the hospital making decisions for you. Who do you want to make decisions for you if it's needed?" She had also had a serious reaction to chemotherapy. And it scared her and shook her up. And that was the example I used: 'If the hospital had to make decisions and you weren't able to, it would have been hard for us to see the hospital [make the decisions for you]. Let's not have that happen. Do you agree you should have a power of attorney?' She said, 'Yes.' And she listed me and Jane. So I said 'Would you like me to go to a lawyer and get that drawn up to make it really legal, so that if the hospital has any questions, they will be answered...' and she said 'Yes.'"

"With difficulty," added Jane. "But she did it. It was a painful thing for her to have to do. While it did maintain control for her, paradoxically it also signed over control to the voice of Mary first and in Mary's absence, me."

#### Group/Hospital Relations

In Boston and in other cities, some hospitals are learning to work with non-traditional support groups like Maggy's. As Mary pointed out, "...I think [some of our success in dealing with the hospital] was [due to] the hospital and their ability to change. Beth Israel Hospital is the best, and Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital next."

Diana added that the group worked "with those professionals we knew would be supportive. I think that mostly they really tried their best in both hospitals to [deal with the group]. I think they appreciated the group. The night Maggy died many of us were with her. The nurse at Beth Israel said, 'It's

wonderful that she had you all. Many people with families die alone.'

The group shared the responsibility of hospital liaison. "There wasn't one person [who dealt with the hospital]. When Maggy was at Spaulding, the social worker said there should only be one spokesperson, and we said that isn't how this group works, and it got dropped."

Group members added that "There were times when we had questions, and somebody in the group volunteered to call a particular person to ask a particular set of questions and report the answers back to the group. We approached someone in the hospital, one of us or two of us or the whole group."

"One of the most important things that our group did," David pointed out, "was that we performed a tremendous service to people who are going to follow by presenting ourselves to the hospital as Maggy's caring group: we are Maggy's *family* to the hospital. And having them accept that sets precedent that makes an inroad into the medical community."

#### Group as Family

"We heard not only from the doctor who was around when Maggy died, but other doctors and the woman from the home health care," David reported. "They were all so impressed with how much support Maggy had and they all tended to make this comparison with 'The Family' and how most people just don't have that support."

"The family gets to the point where they can't take it anymore," Diana pointed out. "And they're afraid of death and afraid to

be there when the person is dying. And because of the nature of the support of the people among this group, many more of us could be there at that moment and afterwards than ordinarily happens."

"I want to add," Diana continued, "I think we are all idealistic people. For myself, I think people shouldn't die alone. If I can help to make this better for Maggy, it's better for everyone else and for me ultimately. It's really that kind of political thing; it's not just the personal, it's the political thing, too. This is the way it ought to be. People ought to be taking care of each other. We should not be glorifying 'The Family' and say that it is somehow magically supposed to do it all. It has to be the people who are together and care about each other — we're the people who should do it for each other."

Maggy's caring group has continued to meet together. They also planned her funeral, closed up her apartment and helped carry out the tasks defined in her will, such as giving her writings to the Lesbian Herstory Archives in New York City and finding homes for her artwork. The group is currently setting up a memorial fund, to be used as an ongoing scholarship award for art students. Contributions can be made payable to "Mass College of Art Foundation, Inc." and sent to:

Maggy Krebs Memorial  
c/o Stephen C. Farrell  
Director of Alumni Affairs and  
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One of  
Maggy's  
cartoons,  
showing  
different parts  
of herself.

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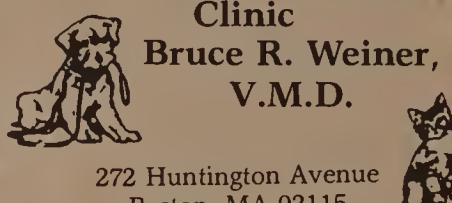
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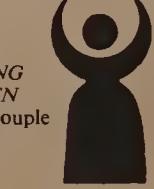
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## Dykes To Watch Out For



# Teresa "Terry" Keegan



Terry Keegan died on Wednesday, Oct. 7 of a cerebral hemorrhage.

Born on July 26, 1948, she worked at the Massachusetts College of Art for the past three years as a security guard.

Terry leaves behind her lover, Brenda Russo, and her two children. □



## Maurice

Continued from page 7

very thing which prompted Forster to write his novel — that electrifying touch to the backside that could shoot through the audience and make us come alive.

*Maurice* feels stifled, held back by its own desire to please its expectant audience. If Merchant and Ivory had had more faith in the original Forster material, or were willing to adapt their own style, *Maurice* might have been a gorgeous film; instead, it is only pretty. □

## Correction

In a story on the campaign to recall Arizona Governor Evan Meekham (Vol. 15, No. 10) the governor should have been quoted as saying the Recall Committee is made up of "homosexuals and a few dissident Democrats." Also, performers Peter, Paul and Mary did appear, donating the proceeds of the event to the Committee.

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2GM seek 2 others to share quiet Ft Hill home, 5 min to Roxb, crossing T stop. Newly rehab vict. w/yds. Avail Nov 1. Want considerate nonsmokers, no pets. Call Peter (10 am best) 445-4731. \$335 month includes heat. (15)

LF 29, poet & editor, sks F 25+ for large, sunny, warm apt. Wood floors, fireplace, etc. Watertown nr Harv. Sq. No smoke/pets. \$350+. 924-5172. (15)

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## SHARE BRAINTREE HOME

GM couple mid-30's seeks 30+ responsible, cooperative person to share 7 room Braintree home. Furnished bedroom, large yard, quiet neighborhood close to public transportation. You must appreciate pets, but not have your own. \$300+ 1/3 utilities. 849-0968 leave message. (15)

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I just received my first copy of GCN and I must say I enjoyed it very much. Please place my name on the penpal list. I'm 28, enjoy camping, love to dance. Would like to meet the butch of my life. (Been very lonely here.) Debra KANE, 6370, Box 180, Muncy PA 17756.

Several friends here would like to thank you for the paper you send! If you could put a penpal ad in, please say bisexual would like to meet ladies any age. Send picture if possible. Glenda TUGMAN, 2888, 8000 W 7th No.7, Pine Bluff AR 71603.

I am an incarcerated woman who at times feels that I have been demoted down to less than the woman I am. Depression is a frequent feeling. Due to the fact of not having family, if there is someone out there I can talk to I would appreciate it. Marcia TALLEY, 6532, Box 180, Muncy PA 17756.



## TV/TS support

Transsexuals In Prison (TIP) is a newsletter available for 50 cents a copy. Write Minority Prison Project, 3214 Anna St., Little Rock AR 72204.

Northwest Gender Dysphoria Info and Support Center, 1601 N. Hwy 95 #6, Moscow ID 83843. Can supply referrals to peer groups for TV/TSs and some parole help for those in the Idaho, Washington, Oregon, area.

North American TV/TS Clearinghouse, 600 E. Pine St, Seattle WA 98122. (206)624-8266. 24 hour hotline for TSs and admirers in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Northern Cal. area only.

Janus Information Facility, Univ. of Texas Medical Branch, 415 Texas Ave, Galveston TX 77550.

## ORGANIZATIONS

### GAY YOUTH COMMUNITY FUND

Sponsors of youth/student projects send tax-deductible donations payable to: GYCC/Capp St. Foundation. Mail to: GYCF, 2215-R Market St., Suite 479, San Francisco, CA 94114. (15.30)

### JEWISH LESBIAN DAUGHTERS OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

We meet for support & networking and welcome contact from other *Jewish Lesbian Daughters of Holocaust Survivors*. The next meeting is scheduled for November 13th-15th, in upstate New Hampshire. A *partners group* has also been formed for lesbian women who are in relationship with JLDHS. Membership is not dependent on both partners. For information, write Box 6194, Boston, MA 02114 or call (617) 321-4254. (15.49)

### OLDER LESBIAN ENERGY

Social and support group for women over 40. P.O. Box 1214, East Arlington, MA 02174. (15.48)

### DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS

Support organization for lesbians, 1151 Mass Ave, Camb. OCBC. Raps every Tues, Thurs at 8pm. Special raps for 35+, parents, younger women, baby boomers, singles, coming out, issues forum. All 8pm. Monthly events, outing club, library. Info: 661-3633. All women invited to participate. (15.35)

### BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER

Multiracial group for all people. Call (415) 431-1976 or write BWMT, suite 140, 580 Castro St. SF, CA, 94114. (V16.1)

### BOSTON ALLIANCE OF GAY AND LESBIAN YOUTH

Social support group for youth 22 and under. Wed. night general meeting from 7:30-9pm. New persons meeting at 6:30. Women's meeting at 6. Call 497-8282 for info. (14.32)

### MAN/BOY LOVE

A support group for intergenerational relationships. For more information send \$1 to: NAMBLA-GCNAD at 537 Jones ST. NO 8418, S.F. CA 94102 or PO Box 174, New York, New York 10018. (15.23)

## PUBLICATIONS

### THE PEOPLE

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### BLACKOUT

The new quarterly magazine from the National coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, features news, views, reviews, poetry, short fiction and announcements of interest to the national Black Lesbian and Gay community. Sample copy, \$4, 1 yr. subscription, (4 issues) \$10. To: Black/Out!, NCBLG, P.O. Box 2490, Washington, DC 20013. (ex)

### LESBIAN CONTRADICTION

A Journal of Irreverent Feminism. Quarterly of commentary, analysis, reviews, cartoons & humor by and for women who agree to disagree-who are still political, but not necessarily correct. Sample \$1; sub \$5; more if/less if. LesCon, 584 Castro, -263G, SF, CA 94114. (V15.21)

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Alexander Berkman, *Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist*

### GCN GAY & LESBIAN PRISONER PROJECT

We send free GCNs, books (when they are donated) and money for postage is available) and run free penpal ads for gay & lesbian prisoners. (There's sometimes a waiting list because of limited space.) If you (outsiders) can help with your time or a contribution of gay/lesbian or other paperbacks, or a donation to help pay for postage etc. please call Mike at GCN or drop by 62 Berkeley in the South End. Thanks.

### Gay Prisoners & Protective Custody

Write GCN Prisoner Project, 62 Berkeley, Boston MA 02116, for a copy of the legal issues & cases on getting into PC (if you want), and on getting out of PC (or Ad Seg or whatever they're calling it where you are).

### Lewisburg Prisoner Project LEGAL BULLETINS

These are aimed mainly at FEDERAL prisoners, though they can be very helpful to state prisoners sometimes.

Vol 1-3: (\$6) Includes access to courts, medical care, disciplinary hearings, protective custody, freedom of speech and association (1st Amend), transfers, Freedom of Info Act, Exhausing Administrative Remedies, detainers, federal rules of criminal procedure, sentence correction or reduction, administrative detention cruel and unusual punishment.

Vol 4-5 (\$6) Includes civil actions in federal courts, urinalysis testing for drug use, rights of pre-trial detainees, update on transfers, protective custody and failure to protect, exhaustion doctrine, personal involvement, basics of legal research, update on medical care, defending yourself in disciplinary hearings.

Send to: Lewisburg Prison Project, Box 128, Lewisburg PA 17837.

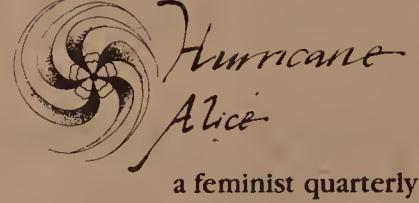
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Lonely, intelligent home-body ... withering away in prison setting seeks penpal to liven up dreary days and nights of prison solitude. Am unable to correspond with sexually explicit letters due to censorship problems, but can write suggestive letters. Enjoy classical, listening and dancing music and jazz. Into science fiction, mysteries and poetry. Do a lot of creative writing. Seeking longterm penpal. Do not need your money, postage or other earthly goods, just yourself, in writing. Rik GILLILAND, Box 3100, Goodyear AZ 85338.

Have 50 acres of farm land, will help anyone in anyway I can. Like animals, movies, disco, traveling and meeting new friends. I go by the (friends') name: Blondie. Willing to write anyone who writes me: Raymond HAGOD, 98712, Camp D (H-4-R-12), Angola LA 70712

In segregation, a prison within a prison. I need a friend. I ask only for conversation and some smiles. I promise to return them with interest (smile). Any TS/TV who enjoy silk panties and cuddling with a devoted man, PLEASE write! Poetry and sex are favorite topics. J. Duster LUDWIG, 152459, Box 1000, Craigsville VA 24430

Gay brother in isolation for helping to protect other gays in prison who were being attacked. Needs letters and especially for outside people to write the 'bigshots' showing an interest in his situation (so they won't feel he has NO outside support and treat him even worse than usual): Please write: Alberto RODRIGUEZ, 81B 306, Box B, Dannemora NY 12929; and the bigshots: E.S. Lefevre, Supt. Box B, Dannemora NY 12929; Thomas Coughlin, Commissioner, State Campus Bldg 2, Albany NY 12226; and Mario Cuomo, Governor, State Capitol, Albany NY 12224.

Bi-sexual male ('Kendra') will answer all letters from prisoners and those on the outside too. Being paroled in 1989. Just looking for friendship. Race makes no difference. Kenneth ROYAL, Drawer K, Y6879-K1, Dallas PA 18612

Gay Alluring Lover sought: U could go N2 a planet beyond the mind and still in your quest never really find a love that's true. Can we be lovers? We won't know until we try. Let's start with being friends. Vernon BEAL, 156561, Box 900, Jefferson City MO 65102.

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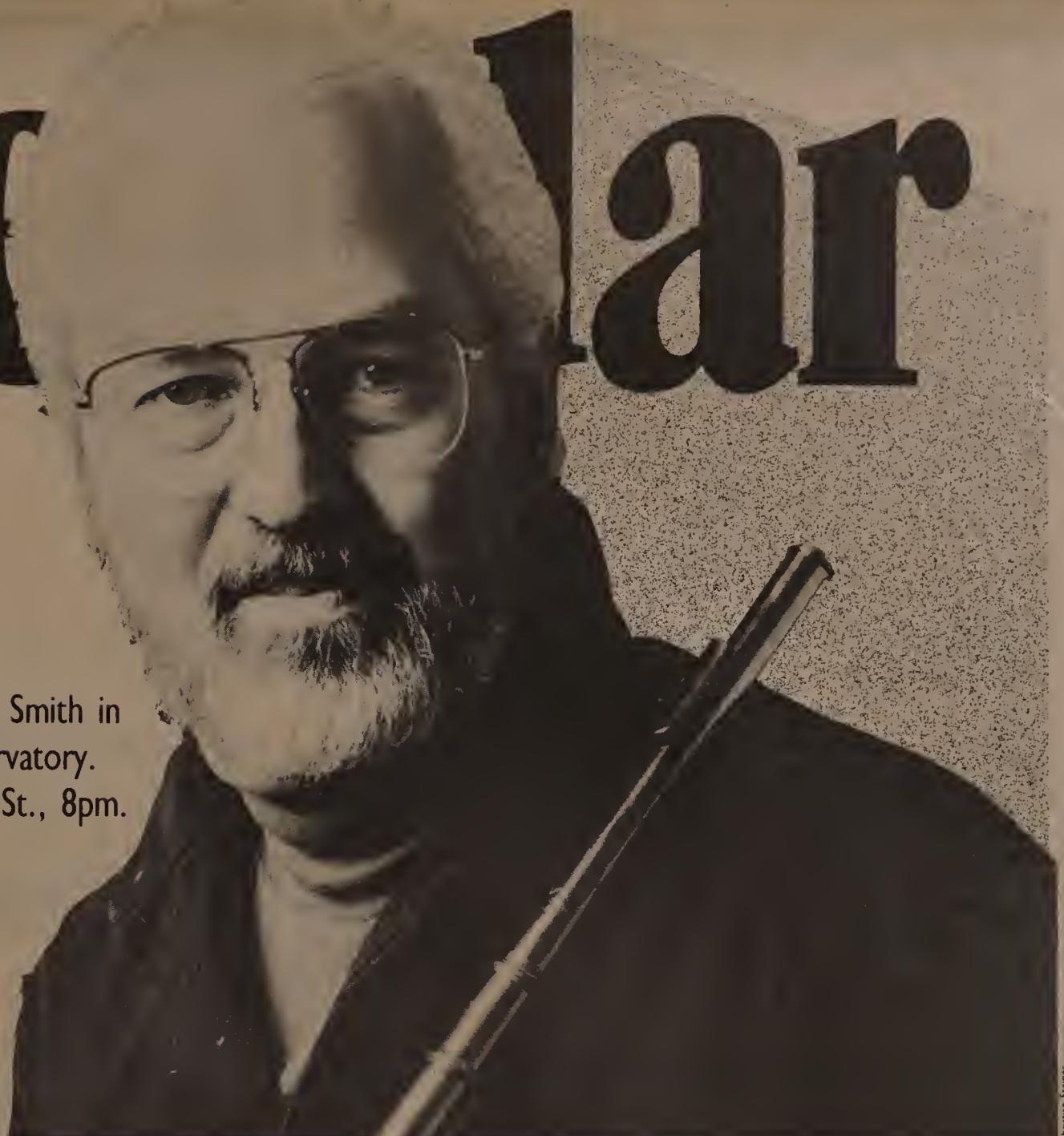
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### POOR PEOPLES

# calendar

## 24 SATURDAY TO 5 THURSDAY



Christian Steiner

27 Tuesday □ Flutist Fenwick Smith in recital at New England Conservatory. Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., 8pm. Free.

### 24 Saturday

Jamaica Plain □ Author John Preston reads at Red Book. 92 Green St. 7:20pm. Free. Info: 522-1464.

Jamaica Plain □ Women in music night featuring Laura Berkson and Cyd Sloteroff. The Peacock Coffeehouse, Centre and Eliot Sts. 8pm. \$5.

Boston □ The Women's Fund presents a workshop on "Preparing for Cultural Diversity." Park Square Building, Suite 902, 31 St. James St. 10am-1pm. \$7 (sliding scale). Info: 542-5955.

Boston □ "We marched, we're back, now we are celebrating!" Dance party benefit for the March on Washington. Local 26, 62 Berkeley St. 8pm-12pm. \$2-20 donation. Info: 426-5605.

Cambridge □ The Women's School offers "People needing People." The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 12-2pm. Free, but donations accepted. Info: 354-8807.

Franconia, NH □ Mid-Autumn Falls hike with the Chiltern Mtn. Club. Info: Michael Rossetti, 787-0428.

Northampton, MA □ "The Wisdom of Self," a two day workshop for women on psychic reading, channeling and healing. Through Oct. 25. 12-4pm. \$60-80 (sliding scale). Info: Sejalina, (413) 253-7575.

Boston □ Girth and Mirth of New England Halloween Party, Hill House, 74 Joy St. 8pm. \$3 non-members/\$2 members. Info: Lenny, 389-5634.

### 25 Sunday

Jamaica Plain □ Lesbian and gay neighbors meet for brunch at the Arbor House, 11am. Call Reed by 10/24 for reservations: \$66-6530, \$7/each approx.

Boston □ Friends (Quakers) for lesbian and gay concerns. Monthly meeting for worship, business and socializing. 7:30pm. Beacon Hill Friends' House, 6 Chestnut St. Info: 491-0850.

Boston □ Berkshire Public Theater presents a performance of "As Is." Public Forum to follow. Charles Playhouse. 7:30pm. \$10.

Allston □ Women's Volleyball. Drills and playing, all levels welcome. This and every Sunday, 5-7pm. Info: 524-4484.

Boston □ Dignity/Boston Goods and Services Auction. Arlington St. Church Basement. 7:30pm. Info: Dennis, 288-6011.

Boston □ Openly gay flutist Fenwick Smith speaks about the BSO and his upcoming free recital at Jordan Hall. "Boston's Other Voice," WROR 98.5FM. 12:30am (Monday morning).

Cambridge □ Dyke grad students, an inter-collegiate interdisciplinary group meets at the Camb. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6-7:30pm. Info: Sara, 321-4254.

Boston □ Rock Against Sexism monthly disc party at the 1270 Club, 1270 Boylston St., 6-10pm. \$2, \$1 before 7pm.

### 26 Monday

Cambridge □ Battered women's support group. 6:30-8pm. Lesbian rap: Negotiation of time/space in friendships/relationships. 8-10pm. Camb. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. Info: 354-8807.

### 27 Tuesday

Salem □ North Shore Gay and Lesbian Alliance community potluck and discussion with Jeff Epperly of the AIDS Action Committee. Grace Episcopal Church, Essex St. 7pm. Info: 595-4443.

Boston □ Beantown Women's Rugby Club seeks athletic recruits for the Fall season. Practices Tuesday and Thursday. Info: Jenny, 782-0130 or Kerri, 731-838.

Boston □ Fenwick Smith, New England Conservatory faculty recital. Works by Debussy, Hindemith, Harbison and Kuhlau. Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St. 8pm. Free.

Cambridge □ New York filmmaker Abigail Child will present parts 1,3,4,5, and 6 of her *Is This What You Were Born For?* including the New England Premiere of *Mayhem*. Brattle Theater, Harvard Square. 8pm. \$5.

Cambridge □ Women for sobriety, 7-8:30pm. Women's school classes: Graffiti Retrospective, 7:30-9:30pm. Self-Acceptance/the Politics of Fat, 7:30-9:30pm. Camb. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. Info: 354-8807.

### 28 Wednesday

Cambridge □ Lesbian Al/Anon, with childcare. 6:30-8pm. Feminist discussion group: women changing society, 8-10pm. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. Info: 354-8807.

### 29 Thursday

Boston □ AIDS: The Hidden Issues with panelists Peter Hiam, Denise McWilliams and Paula Johnson. Suffolk U. Rm. 636B, Fenton Bldg. 7:30pm. Free. Sponsored by Nat. Lawyers Guild and Gay/Lesbian Advocates and Defenders. Info: 227-7335.

Boston □ GCN's production night. All welcome. Proofreading: before 8PM. Paste-up: after 7PM. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington & Back Bay T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

### 30 Friday

New Haven, CT □ "Lesbian/Gay Studies I: Definitions and Explorations." Inaugural conference of the Lesbian and Gay Studies Center at Yale. Whitney Humanities Center, 53 Wall St. Friday-Saturday: registration, Friday at noon. Saturday's program, 9am-5pm with a dance Saturday evening. Info: Yale Univ. Conference Services, (203) 432-0465.

Boston □ GCN mailing. Come help stuff the paper and meet new friends. 5pm to 10pm. Near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. Info: GCN, 426-4469.

Boston □ "The Hal Koltin Special: Sex, AIDS, and Paul Cronan," cablecast on BNN-TV (Boston Cable Access Channels A-3 and A-8), 6:30pm.

Cambridge □ "Transitions of the Spirit." Recent Paintings by Elin Menzies. Brinkerhoff Gallery, 265 Pearl St. Opening reception Halloween Eve., 7-9:30pm. Gallery hours are Sat. and Sun. 1-5pm or by appointment. Info: 864-9836.

Northampton, MA □ Third Annual Witches ball, benefit for the Poor & Working Class Women's Project. The Red Barn, Hampshire College. 9-12pm. Drug and alcohol free. \$7-9 advance/\$8-10 at the door, discounts for students and senior citizens.

Cambridge □ Amethyst Women Halloween Dance at the Old. Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. Costumes and prizes. 9pm-midnight. Drug and alcohol free for lesbians and their women friends. \$5 more/less.

Cambridge □ Women's Coffeehouse: Night of Magic and Tarot. Camb. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8pm-midnight. Info: 354-8807.

### 31 Saturday

Dorchester □ Dorchester GALA's Halloween Open House and Surprise Parties. Info: Barbara, 282-2962 or Joe 282-7822 (after 6pm).

Cambridge □ Women, Money and Social Responsibility, a conference on socially responsible money management, presented by the Boston Women's Fund, Cronkite graduate Center, Radcliffe College. 6 Ash St. 9am-5pm. \$55 pre-registration, \$65 day of. Info: 542-5955.

Boston □ DOB Halloween Potluck, prizes for the best costumes. 156 Warren Ave., South End. 7:30pm. \$3. Bring food to share. Info: 661-3633.

Cambridge □ "Broom with a View." Amethyst Women Halloween dance. "People, prizes and things OH MY." Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 9-12pm. Drug and alcohol free. \$5 more/less.

Northampton □ Celebrate the witches new year to benefit New Moon productions. Chem-free costume dance party. Northampton Center for the Arts. \$5-8. 9pm-lam. Info or work-exchange: (413) 868-8718.

Somerville □ Feminist Voices in concert with Mary Daly, Alix Dobkin, Sonia Johnson and Casselberry and Dupree. Somerville Theater, 55 Davis Sq., 8pm. \$12.50/\$9.50 low income available at the theater only. Interpreted for hearing impaired. Info: 625-1081.

### November 1 Sunday

Dorchester □ Dorchester GALA potluck. Info: Barbara, 282-2962, or Joe, 282-7822 (after 6pm).

Lincoln □ Lesbian academic group discussion of Antony and Cleopatra from a feminist perspective. 7:30pm. Info: Ina, 969-3186 or Edith, (401) 273-2546.

### 3 Tuesday

Cambridge □ DOB forum on lesbian battering. DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church; 1151 Mass. Ave. 8pm. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

Boston □ Gay Fathers of Greater Boston general meeting. AIDS Action Committee "SafetyNet" Safer Sex presentation. 7:30-11pm. 6 Hamilton Place, 3rd floor. Info: 742-7897.

### 4 Wednesday

Cambridge □ Discussion group for men with sexual abuse histories. First Wednesday of every month. Cambridge Family Y, 820 Mass. Ave. 8:30-10pm. Sponsored and facilitated by New Directions for Men. Info: 498-9881.

### 5 Thursday

Cambridge □ DOB women of color concerns, DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8pm. \$1. Info: Jean, 227-8150.

Boston □ AIDS Benefit with Larry Kessler and Jeanne Blake (WBZ Channel 4 Medical Editor). Music by Bougainvillea. Boston Marriott Hotel, Long Wharf. \$50 donation. Info: 227-0240.

CALENDAR COMPILED BY  
BARNABY FISHER

**Eat the Rich.** Directed by Peter Richardson. Written by Peter Richardson and Peter Richens. With Lanah Pellay, Jimmy Flagg, Ron Tarr, Nosher Powell, Sandra Dorne, Ronald Allen. With special guest appearances by Paul McCartney, Linda McCartney, Koo Stark, Bill Wyman. At the Nickelodeon and Harvard Square.

By Michael Bronski

**T**o say that *Eat the Rich* is an off-beat film is to seriously underestimate its charm. It has the look of a *Monty Python* skit mixed with *Sweeney Todd*, the sense of the old *Carry On* comedies, and the politics of an anarchist who may have taken too much acid in the '60s.

And how many other films this year have starred a Black transsexual punk rock performer playing a Black transsexual terrorist?

Director Peter Richardson, along with writer Peter Richens and their collaborators/acting troupe called The Comic Strip, base *Eat the Rich* on real personalities. Lanah Pellay, a rock and club personality, plays Alex — a Black transsexual waiter who is fired from her job at Bastards, an exclusive restaurant. Fed up with the system, she robs an unemployment office with Ron, played by Ron Tarr (a brute of a nightclub bouncer who is a regular on British TV). Together they form a terrorist gang dedicated to destroying the system. Fiona, played by Fiona Richardson (noted in England for appearing naked in public and writing pornography) and other assorted characters join the effort to topple the government of Nosher Powell (played by himself — a famous conservative ex-boxer). It's as though all of those faces from the back of *People* magazine have landed in a fantasy beyond their control.

**film**

## Smart food

*Eat the Rich* dishes up a feast of invention and political savvy



Ron Tarr, as Ron, and Lanah Pellay, as Alex, pose for newsmen as they become instant celebrity terrorists bent on destroying British society by literally serving the rich — to the rich.

The characters are broad and farcical (as pop personalities always are) and the film's structure is accidental and episodic. Director Richardson isn't afraid to follow a cheap gag with a James Bond parody, and then top it off with a particularly nasty swipe at the Queen. What holds the film together is its political view — anarchistic to be sure — in which power is always corrupting and those in power are fools who have to be destroyed. (Compare this to John Waters' films, in which the main point always seems that people and culture and feelings are pointless.)

The satire here is sometimes savage and mean (this is when the film is at its best), sometimes quite tame. Parts of *Eat the Rich* fall a little flat, but even with its weak points the film is one of the most inventive and politically savvy films to surface, on either side of the Atlantic, for a long while.

By the way, the title is neither metaphorical nor allegorical.

united fruit company & red sweaters  
second annual  
(post-) halloween

dance  
party

saturday  
november 7

9 pm - 2 am

to benefit

gay  
community  
news  
&  
nicaragua  
material  
aid

villa victoria  
cultural center  
85 west newton  
south end

food  
cash bar

all kinds of dance music  
creative dress encouraged

\$5 in advance, \$8 at the door (sliding scale)  
advance tickets from gay community news, red book, cambridge food coop or  
affinity group members. free parking at the hurley school.  
70 worcester st. (between shawmut & tremont). within walking distance of  
back bay or mass ave orange line T stops or copley place green line T stop.  
wheelchair accessible. info: gen 426-4469 or tty: 426-0332

